

June 2, 2009

Over \$575,000 in Recovery Bill Funding to be used to Improve Inadequate Wastewater System

Washington, DC -- U.S. Rep. Michael Arcuri (NY-24) announced today that the Hamlet of Hinckley has received \$576,300 in Recovery Bill funding to improve its existing wastewater treatment system, which currently allows sewage to flow into local streams during storms and other high-water events.

“Ensuring that every citizen in New York State, from the Hamlet of Hinckley to New York City, has access to clean water is vital for the health and safety of us all,” Arcuri said, “This is another example of Recovery Bill funding being put to good use in our local community and protecting our precious water supply by updating and improving our local infrastructure.”

The Hamlet of Hinckley wastewater collection and treatment system will provide sewer service to residential users that currently rely on an inadequate collection system. The current system allows sewage to be discharged into local streams, creating health and environmental issues.

USDA Rural Development’s Water and Environmental Program provides loans and grants to ensure that the necessary investments are made in water and wastewater infrastructure to deliver safe drinking water and protect the environment in rural areas. The Recovery Bill, which Arcuri voted for and the President signed into law in February, included more than \$1.3 billion, nationwide, for this program. The Recovery Bill also includes job creation measures such as: funding for infrastructure improvements; aid to states and localities; tax cuts for the middle class and small businesses; and, investments in education.

Arcuri has been fighting for water infrastructure improvements across the 24th Congressional District in many ways. On April 23rd, 2009, Arcuri led the debate allowing for the House of Representatives to vote on the National Water Research and Development Initiative Act of 2009 (H.R. 1145). H.R. 1145 directed the President to implement a National Water Research and Development Initiative to improve federal, state and local government activities related to water research and development, as well as coordinate federal research on water resources. Arcuri

also successfully amended the legislation to directly address local concerns regarding competing water supply use.

Arcuri's amendment to H.R. 1145 would improve understanding of competing water supply uses and how different uses interact with and impact each other. The amendment requires an interagency committee, established by the underlying legislation, to study how using water for one purpose impacts or limits its use for other purposes. The committee would develop a set of guidelines or principles about the most efficient way to balance competing uses. This information could then be used by agencies like those that manage Seneca Lake and Hinckley Reservoir in Utica, NY to maximize the benefits of various water uses at each site, ensuring their continued ability to generate power, promote tourism and economic development without endangering the safety of those who rely on those bodies as a source of clean drinking water.

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